

FOOTBALL IN AMERICA

Lesson Plan

Great Game Summaries

Lesson Plan for *Great Moments in NFL History*

Grade 3

Objective

To help students practice describing the main ideas of a short chapter.

Things Needed:

- Four copies of the *Great Moments in NFL History* book
- Whiteboard
- Pencils and paper

Before the Activity

Write the following questions on the whiteboard:

- What game does this chapter describe? When did it take place?
- Which teams played against each other?
- How would you describe the game's main events in three or four sentences?

Activity

Divide students into four groups. Give each group a copy of *Great Moments in NFL History*. Each of the book's four chapters describes one impressive event in pro football. Assign one chapter to each group:

- Chapter 1: The Comeback
- Chapter 2: The Catch
- Chapter 3: Immaculate Reception
- Chapter 4: One Yard Short

Students in the group should read the chapter together. Then they should write answers to the questions on the whiteboard. Remind students to write their chapter's title at the top of the page. They should also list the names of all group members.



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Evaluation

Use the attached answer key to give each group up to 4 points:

- 1 point for identifying the game
- 1 point for identifying the teams
- 2 points for writing an accurate description of the game's main events

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.2).

Answer Key

Chapter 1: The Comeback

- Game: the Super Bowl in February 2017
- Teams: the Atlanta Falcons vs. the New England Patriots
- Summary: In the third quarter, the Falcons were 25 points ahead. But then the Patriots scored three touchdowns to tie the game. After another touchdown in overtime, the Patriots won a surprise victory.

Chapter 2: The Catch

- Game: the last playoff game before the Super Bowl in January 1982
- Teams: the Dallas Cowboys vs. the San Francisco 49ers
- Summary: Less than a minute before the game ended, the 49ers were six points behind. Their quarterback threw a long pass. Dwight Clark caught it, scoring a touchdown and winning the game for the 49ers.

Chapter 3: Immaculate Reception

- Game: a playoff game in December 1972
- Teams: the Pittsburgh Steelers vs. the Oakland Raiders
- Summary: The Steelers were on their fourth down. Their quarterback tried to pass, but the ball bounced into the air. A Steelers running back caught it and raced down the field to score a touchdown and win the game.

Chapter 4: One Yard Short

- Game: the Super Bowl in January 2000
- Teams: the St. Louis Rams vs. the Tennessee Titans
- Summary: By the fourth quarter, the Rams had the lead. In the game's last six seconds, a Titans receiver caught a pass near the end zone. But the Rams tackled him one yard short of the end zone.



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